

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 14 as follows:

The ~~flash memory 140~~ protected storage 140, which may be implemented as flash memory, may contain Pre-OS application programs 144 such as, for example, a set of system basic input/output start up instructions (system BIOS) as well as other applications that may execute during boot up (start up) before the operating system (OS) 132 is loaded, and other power saving instructions for full on, standby and sleep states in accordance with the Advanced Power Management (APM) specification jointly developed by Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. in February 1996, and the Advanced Configuration and Power Interface (ACPI) specification, version 1.013, jointly developed by Intel Corp., Microsoft Corp. and Toshiba Corp. in February 1999. The Pre-OS application programs such as the system BIOS 144 may require user authentication such as a password before allowing the operating system (OS) to boot. Typically, a password or other authentication must be provided to allow for completion of booting of an operating system (OS), connecting to a network, accessing a database, or starting application programs such as, for example, an electronic mail program. Alternatively, the Pre-OS application programs 144 may also be stored in the main memory 130 along with the operating system (OS) 132 and the OS-Present application programs 134.